

## **BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL**

### **PUBLIC SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE**

There was a regular meeting for the above-referenced subcommittee held at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, January 12, 2015 in Conference Room #5, Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.

Present were: Councilors Joseph Washington

Also present were: Councilor Leon Rivers, Philip K. Schenck Jr., Town Manager, Chief Paul Hammick, Chief Robert Farmer, Chief William Riley, Pat Braun and India Rodgers, Clerk of Council.

Absent were: Councilors Wayne Hypolite, Joel Neuwirth and Joseph Merritt

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. There was no quorum present for an official record of meeting.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

There was no quorum present for the approval of minutes of the last meeting held on December 8, 2014.

#### **POLICE**

The police department budget remains on track. Payroll is trending about 50% and overtime is below 50%.

#### **Crime**

There was an increase of 6% in crime statistics. Some of this increase was attributed to assaults – altercations at Bloomfield High School/domestic violence related incidents. In addition, there was a significant uptick in burglaries into storage units on Regency Drive and Sutton Place. Most the items stolen included electronics and TV's. There were approximately 20 more burglaries than last year to date.

Officer initiated activity remain high and calls dispatched out decline.

There was one citizen complaint in the month of December. A resident contacted the police department to report a potential traffic hazard on Terry Plains Road. The initial concern

involved a motion light on a garage which could be bothersome to incoming drivers turning on a certain angle. Chief Hammick investigated this complaint and the homeowner made the necessary adjustments to the motion light.

Use of force – Officer Sandberg was involved in an altercation in a domestic violence incident utilizing minimal force. Officer Serkofsky and Officer Lostrinelli used their Taser on a disturbed female who pulled a firearm on the officers.

Traffic Enforcement will continue at the primary accident locations: Maple Street, Woodland Avenue, Duncaster Road, Blue Hills Avenue and Cottage Grove Road.

### Personnel Updates

The department is budgeted for 49 sworn officers, there is currently 49 sworn officers on staff, fully staffed.

There are no anticipated retirements for the month of January 2015. However, 8 officers are eligible for retirement in 2015. Chief Hammick stated that the department is currently in the process of conducting background checks for potential vacancies.

Officer Steven Grabowski joined the department at the end of December 2014 and is currently in the Police Academy.

### CALEA

Chief Hammick reported that the mock assessment on the department will take place on January 28, 2015. The actual assessment will be on June 15, 2015.

### Community Services

The department is very active with Social & Youth Services for the holiday season. Officers participated in holiday shopping for 26 youth in need for Christmas. The department also participated in the “Colors of the Season” – Tree Lighting Ceremony.

Chief Hammick was interviewed by the Bloomfield Journal to discuss the police department mission, goals and needs of the community.

### BVA

There are currently 24 students who will graduate at the end of January 2015. These participants will take the practical exam in the first week in February 2015.

There were four new volunteers who joined the BVA this past month.

The new ambulance has arrive and will be operable once the flashlight installation/inspection is completed. Training of volunteers will take place to use the new power lift, programming of lights and electronics.

## **FIRE**

### **Center Fire District**

Chief William Riley reported the district participated in holiday giving by "Fill the Fire Truck" of which 150 toys were donated. They also raised funds in the amount of \$780.00 for muscular dystrophy.

The district received a total of 492 calls for year ranging in various categories.

### **Blue Hills Fire District**

Chief Robert Farmer reported that the district had a total of 508 calls for the year, in which 11 were structure fires with dual response of the Center Fire District.

Approximately, 64 calls were responded to for Motor Vehicle accidents with injuries.

The district has scheduled a tentative date of May 2, 2015 for their Annual Education Fun Day.

Chief Farmer reported that Blue Hills Fire District will initiate an Explorers Program. This program will be geared towards youth between the ages of 16-18 years old.

Chief Farmer noted that the district obtain Safer Grant from the State of Connecticut to hire firefighters. This grant will fund the salary of firefighters hired for two years. After the two year period, the district has plans to budget this amount going forward.

There were six new volunteers that joined the district of which two are already trained as Firefighter I.

Chief reported that there are four firefighters in school at the State Academy for additional training.

On January 9, 2015, Chief Farmer, Firefighter/Community Officer Jaunai and Officer Tiesha Thomas of the Bloomfield Police Department went to Federation Homes for a Fire Safety Talk on evacuation procedures.

The district announced that they will continue with their Summer Internship Program for 6 weeks and is seeking four youth to participate. This is a paid internship of \$170.00 per week. Participants will be required to write an essay on why they would like to be firefighters.

Chief Farmer also informed the committee that he is currently working with local churches on the Blue Hills corridor with Boys Scout groups to unite them and host a group at the firehouse to promote the profession as well as fire safety awareness.

### OTHER BUSINESS

Councilor Washington inquired about minority replacements for officer vacancies.

Councilor Washington also inquired about the status update for the proposed Police Cadet Program. Chief Hammick reported that the proposal has been submitted for review in the upcoming budget process. These non-union positions will be paid benefitted. The Police Explorers Program is designed to introduce youth between the ages of 16 – 18 to the inner workings of the police department. There are currently 13 youth enrolled in the program at Bloomfield High School.

### ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councilor Rivers, seconded by Councilor Washington and voted unanimously to adjourn this meeting at 7:25 p.m.